

TOWN OF CHATHAM
488 State Route 295, Chatham, NY 12037

Town Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 19, 2024 @ 6:30PM

This Meeting is IN PERSON (Town Hall) For Board Members With the Exception of the Occurrence of Extraordinary Circumstances

IN PERSON and VIRTUAL for the Public

Google Meet: meet.google.com/tqz-efzm-xbh Join By Phone: (US) +1 224-814-1308 PIN: 632 413 079#

➤ **RECORDING NOTICE**

PRESENT

Supervisor Donal Collins, Councilmembers Rick Werwaiss, Angus Eaton, John Wapner, Destiny Hallenbeck, Highway Superintendent James Fetzer, Town Clerk Beth Anne Rippel

ABSENT: None

- Supervisor Collins called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

➤ **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Columbia County Pathways to Recovery Memorial Walk: Friday 6pm@ Tracy
2. Chatham Area Farm Tour: Saturday September 21 (10am-4pm) (CAP & CLC)
 - A OOMS AND SONS DAIRY FARM
 - ARTHUR'S POINT FARM
 - THE CHATHAM BERRY FARM
 - DOG WOOD FARM
 - ROCK CITY MUSHROOMS
 - GRIMALDI FARM
 - HAWTHORNE VALLEY FARM
 - HIGH AND MIGHTY FARM
 - KINDERHOOK FARM
 - LITTLE BROOK FARM
 - MAPLE LEAF SUGARING
 - STARON FARM
3. East Chatham Fire Company Open House: October 6th 1:30-4:30 pm

➤ **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Chatham | Re: Unclaimed Funds due to Chatham |
| 2. East Chatham | Re: Rock City Road Confusing Stop Sign,
Limited visibility to see Road Mower |
| 3. Potential resident | Re: STR laws |
| 4. CAC Member | Re: Conservation Advisory Council Resignation |

5. Chatham
6. CAC Member
7. Chatham

Re: Business Signage Aesthetics/Removal
Re: Conservation Advisory Council Resignation
Re: Cellular Service Decline

● **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. Broadband and Cellular Service Committee- (Councilwoman Hallenbeck/Councilman Werwaiss)
Werwaiss led that meeting and was the only one who signed on. He reached out to Dave Everett. He was the primary author on cellular tower overlay. They want to be proactive about getting more Towers in Town.
2. CAP (Chatham Agricultural Partnership)- (Supervisor Collins)
Talked about
3. Climate Smart/Action Task Force Committee- (Councilman Eaton)
Didn't meet. Met with residents of East Chatham to talk about doing a street lighting survey. Committee has not gotten a survey out yet.
4. Communications Committee- (Councilman Wapner-(Attachment in Agenda Packet)
Discussed a new direction the committee could go in, newsletter, finished correspondence protocol and discuss at the next workshop meeting. Tell the public that we worked to come up with a compromise.
5. Finance & Planning Committee- (Supervisor Collins)
Meeting after the budget presentation. Awaiting matrix info from the 5th TB member.
6. Housing Committee- (Councilwoman Hallenbeck)
Working on a public meeting. Eaton thinks that we can use PS21 on Oct 19.
7. Parks & Recreation Committee- (Councilman Wapner)
Park planning is still working on the first part of the Plan. Hope to be finished by Thanksgiving. They won't meet their September goal. They did a "How To" document on how you can use the Park and therefore how that part of it runs. Have 137 responses (survey). He is interested in interviewing people with young families.
8. Grants Appropriations Committee- (Supervisor Collins)
Will meet next week to do a mock grant application for the SWIMS grant. To bolster the swimming program. Still waiting for info. from Res. Director West to write the narrative.
9. CAC- (Abi Mesick)
Temporary Chair for now. Haven't met in quite a long time, some of the members have since moved on so we have 4 members at this time. Discuss our relationship to the Invasives Committee.
10. Invasive Species Awareness Committee- (Abi Mesick)
Dylan from Soil and Water will be meeting with them. Work on phragmites behind the pond. Make tentative suggestions on how to take care for it. Expand their presence on the website. Tammy is happy to work with them. In the event they have too much information, we may look at having our own website after seeing that Climate Smarts has their own site. Looking for permission from the Board to raise awareness about the Atlantis tree. Once we may be able to do something about it. Mesick wants to reach out to Ghent and Addison Kubic, this is something they'd like to work on. Mesick asked if it is OK to speak on behalf of the Town, Werwaiss said yes.

Werwaiss spoke on CAC. He hopes this is the last budget that doesn't have a line item for their work, this is worthy of taxpayers money. Collins said are funds for committee work

11. Traffic Safety Working Group- (Councilwoman Hallenbeck/Councilman Wapner)

Collins reported that there has been a lot of activity with the Village PD issuing verbal warnings and writing tickets. Working on 2 new speed reduction requests, Citizens came up with the locations and hours of activity. Speed device placement involves highway work permits.

Werwaiss-commend James for the road conditions.

12. Zoning Update Committee- (Councilman Eaton/Councilwoman Hallenbeck)

Working on language for ADU. Updates to use tables, particularly for multi family dwelling. and Planned Developments. It'll have a great mix of housing. Propose allowing commercial as well. Keep what we're presenting to the public consumable. Do things a little bit at a time.

Werwaiss-suggests doing a lot of public meetings. Eaton said that what comes out of the public meeting will be up for a decision. Kents interpretation is a little more narrow.

13. Solar Law Committee (Councilman Eaton)

Eaton - they're analyzing comments. What CAP is looking for is prohibition on any size development. Arrays will provide off-site power. We're talking about capping, how much land can be covered by solar.

Werwaiss wants to table Supervisor Collins' Town and County report until the Board has a hard copy to review in advance. His request is that they get a hard copy so they can review it and ask pertinent questions. He asked that it be sent at the time the agenda is sent to them. Collins asked the Board if they wanted to table. Collins continued with his report.

14. Town & County (Supervisor Collins)

One of the greatest things to come out of this month was to see all the volunteer participation at the Climate Carnival. He met with a member of Didi Barrett's office who wants to award the town of Chatham 125,000 for clean energy upgrades. He reached out to Angus, Deborah Conrad, David Levow and Tammy Shaw to have a meeting to come up with a proposal for the board town board and for Barrett's office to look through. This helps us with our capital improvements. Collins went on to thank the many people who were involved in a successful Climate Carnival. Full report on file

● **REPORTS ON FILE:**

1. Assessor
2. Code Enforcement/Building Inspector
3. Dog Control
4. Environmental Mgt Council
5. Finance Department report on file
6. Highway Department report on file
7. Justice Court
8. Office of the Aging Advisory Board
9. Recreation Director report on file
10. Supervisor's Report report on file
11. Town Clerk report on file

- **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. NY Senate Section 421-P: Exemption of newly-constructed or converted rental multiple dwellings.
Eaton commented that there are 2 421P's.

- **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Town Clerk to Present the 2025 Tentative Budget to Town Board
Proposed 1.16% increase over 2024. They want a competitive wage for part time clerks bringing them up to \$20./hour. Propose working with Civil Service. Encapsulate the needs of the Park as well as the Town Hall by creating a position for park maintenance at 380 hours per year. NNCC requested funding as we do with CG seniors.
2. Town Accounting RFP
Collins-Patterson CPA was selected, saving the Town \$15,000., Resolution is on the agenda.
3. Ecological Restoration Grant
This is through a partnership for Climate Action Hudson Valley. Mesick will have more information after the Monday meeting.

- **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Jeannie would like to hear Donals report. It's good for the public to hear this as well. She commented on Werwaiss' ability to comment on the other subcommittee reports without a hard copy but not Collins'.
- Mesick asked if she could solicit donations for a second building for the free store. Looking at around 4K. An individual can raise funds but the Town can not. Asked if residents along back roads could put out signage asking motorists to "Go Slow". No State approval is needed for this type of signage. Just some ideas for road signs to promote community awareness and safety.
 - Werwaiss just wanted it noted that he is not impervious to criticism. He's here tonight, to the detriment of his career, because of the criticism he received for missing meetings.
 - Wendy Carroll said that she was the one who brought up the issue of board member absences. It would be respectful to the community and to the audience if there was an announcement at the beginning of the meeting. Sniping ensued.
 - Laurange doesn't think it's anyone's business why a board member is absent..
 - Mesick-the attendance issue might be a topic for discussion, standard protocol.
 - Wapner suggested that this could be a project for the communications committee, it clearly needs a protocol.

- **RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **Resolution# 201-24: To Approve the Town Board Minutes.**

WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board approves the Town Board Minutes for August 1, 2024 and August 15, 2024.

Offered by: Hallenbeck seconded motion: Eaton

VOTE

AYE: Collins, Werwaiss, Eaton, Wapner, Hallenbeck **NAY:** None **Resolution adopted**

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2. **Resolution# 202-24: To Accept the Town Accountant's Financial Supervisor's Report.**
WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board accepts the Town Accountant's Financial Supervisor Report for August, 2024.
Offered by: Werwaiss, seconded motion: Hallenbeck
VOTE
AYE: Collins, Werwaiss, Eaton, Wapner, Hallenbeck **NAY:** None **Resolution adopted**
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3. **Resolution# 203-24: To Accept the Financial Abstract as presented to pay the Town Bills.**
WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board accepts the Financial Abstract #9A-2024 as presented to pay the Town Bills.
Offered by: Eaton , seconded motion: Werwaiss
VOTE
AYE: Collins, Werwaiss, Eaton, Wapner, Hallenbeck **NAY:** None **Resolution adopted**
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4. **Resolution# 204-24: To Appoint Accounting Firm for 2025**
WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board advertised on September 4, 2024 for "Accounting and Auditing Services" for 2025 in the Register Star Newspaper, and

WHEREAS, sealed proposals received were opened and read on September 13, 2024 at 9:00AM, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Chatham appoints Robert H. Patterson, CPA as the Town of Chatham's Certified Public Account for 2025 at the accounting engagement fee of \$24,000, invoiced to the Town in twelve monthly installments of \$2,000.00 and Department audits will be billed separately and as completed in the following amounts: Justice Court-\$1750.00 and Town Clerk -\$1,250.00.

Offered by: Werwaiss , seconded motion: Eaton
This is good work. Collins-thank you Tammy
VOTE
AYE: Collins, Werwaiss, Eaton, Wapner, Hallenbeck **NAY:** None **Resolution adopted**
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5. **Resolution #205-24: To Apply for the Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley Ecological Restoration Grant**
WHEREAS, the Chatham Town Board created an Invasive Species Awareness Committee by Resolution 114-2023 of on May 18, 2023 to identify, monitor, educate, contain and manage the invasive species threatening our local ecology, and

WHEREAS, the planting and maintenance of native species is an effective tool in buffering invasive species propagation, and

WHEREAS, the Invasive Species Awareness Committee welcomes external assistance and partnerships in its efforts, and

WHEREAS, the Committee has identified an avenue of assistance, and

WHEREAS the Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley (PCAHV) was founded in 2019 with the goal to move multiple forms of capital to priority areas for ecological restoration, with a focus on establishing community forests and cultivating native habitat, and the decarbonization of existing building stock in our region's most underserved communities, and

WHEREAS, PCAHV is offering the 2024 Ecological Restoration Grant to support the creation of wildflower meadows, native habitat plantings, forest restoration, deer impact mitigation, and more, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Chatham supports the Invasive Species Awareness Committee in the application for the 2024 PCAHV Ecological Restoration Grant, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Town would like to acknowledge and thank Columbia County Soil and Water Conservation District Director Dylan Cipkowski for his assistance in the preparation of the application.

Offered by: Hallenbeck , seconded motion: Eaton

VOTE

AYE: Collins, Werwaiss, Eaton, Wapner, Hallenbeck **NAY:** None **Resolution adopted**

6. **Resolution# 206-24: To Accept Resignations from Conservation Advisory Council Members**

WHEREAS, Robin Jenkins and Lisa Simonetti, have submitted their letters of resignation to the Town of Chatham from the Conservation Advisory Council, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chatham Town Board accepts the resignation letters from Robin Jenkins and Lisa Simonetti and authorizes the Town Clerk to advertise for the open positions.

Offered by: Werwaiss , seconded motion: Wapner

Have we advertised for EMC? Collins said yes.

VOTE

AYE: Collins, Werwaiss, Eaton, Wapner, Hallenbeck **NAY:** None **Resolution adopted**

7. **Resolution# 207-24: To Accept Bid for Biomass Boiler for Highway**

Collins made a MOTION to table Resolution #207-24, second by Eaton and carried.

James will reach out to the other co. to see if it's comparable.

WHEREAS, Town Board authorized the Highway Superintendent to advertise for bid (One) Biomass Boiler for the sum not to exceed \$50,000.00 expensed from the Building Reserve Account (A878) to Garage Equipment (A5132.2) on August 1, 2024, Resolution #176-24, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chatham Town Board accepts the sole bid from Hypro Therm Manufacturing, LLC, 1148 Hwy 62 West, Salem, AR for the sum of \$44,187.00 plus \$3,950.00 Shipping, total sum of \$48,137.00 for (One) Hyprotherm TL-855-WTC Biomass Boiler.

8. **Resolution# 208-24: To Accept Bids for Highway Equipment Storage Building**

WHEREAS, Town Board authorized the Highway Superintendent to advertise for (One) Shipping Container Storage Building on June 20, 2024, Resolution #157-24, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chatham Town Board accepts the following bids for (One) Highway Equipment Storage building:

- Interport Maintenance Co. Inc., 635 Delancy Street, Newark, NJ for (2) New 40' HC Dry Van-Beige Containers for the sum of \$8,200.00 plus shipping of \$2,050.00, with total sum being \$10,250.00.
- SteelMaster Buildings, LLC, 1023 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, VA for a Prefabricated Steel Storage Container Roof System for the sum of \$29,285.00.
- Mario's Home Center, Route 9, Valatie, NY, for the sum of \$14,374.69.

Offered by: Eaton , seconded motion: Hallenbeck

VOTE

AYE: Collins, Werwaiss, Eaton, Wapner, Hallenbeck **NAY:** None **Resolution adopted**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bobseine recognized all the work that everyone's been doing.

Eaton-Thanked Kelly Mackerer, she was a life saver

Collins-thanked PS21 for donating hanging racks for the Climate Carnival.

Tim Mackerer-Learn politics at home but bring your work gloves to Crellin Park on the 28th and 29th.

We'll get some work done on the exercise pad.

MOTION TO CLOSE MEETING

at 8:03 PM was made by Eaton, seconded by Wapner and carried.

Respectfully submitted by, Beth Anne Rippel, Town Clerk